

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1 and 14 were amended to further clarify the present invention. No new matter has been added.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103**

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by EP 392,248 to Sauer ("Sauer"). Applicants respectfully traverse and obviate the rejection.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by EP 392,248 to Sauer ("Sauer"). Applicants respectfully traverse and obviate the rejection.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, it alleges that all of the limitations of the present invention are taught or are obvious. Applicants respectfully submit that Sauer does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. Specifically, Sauer does not disclose or even suggest, among other elements, pre-swollen absorbent gelling material comprising a water content of less than 5%. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 8, lines 14-17. Sauer, at best discloses compositions containing 5 to 40 percent water (*See, e.g.*, Sauer, Claim 6) or 5 to 35 percent water (*See, e.g.*, Sauer, page 3, lines 10-11). As Sauer does not disclose or even suggest pre-swollen absorbent gelling material comprising a water content of less than 5%, Sauer does not teach each and every limitation of the present invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b), 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regard to all claims not specifically mentioned, these are believed to be allowable not only in view of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant to arrange for a telephonic interview in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due for the amendments herein. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Procter & Gamble Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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